

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT

The Intergovernmental Coordination Element provides local governments an opportunity to inventory existing intergovernmental coordination mechanisms and processes with other local governments and governmental entities that can have profound impacts on the success of implementing the local government's comprehensive plan. The purpose of this element is to assess the adequacy and suitability of existing coordination mechanisms to serve the current and future needs of the community and articulate goals and formulate a strategy for effective implementation of community policies and objectives that, in many cases, involve multiple governmental entities.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND CONDITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS

The **Lumpkin County** government has a five member commission and other elected officials who serve four-year terms. The county government sets and approves the budget for all departments and elected officials. The county government, under the supervision of the commissioner, sets the millage rate each year, which provides funds for the operation of the county departments.

The **City of Dahlonega** is governed by a mayor and five person city council who are elected city wide. All city council members serve on a part-time basis. The mayor supervises the city clerk and all city departments.

The **Lumpkin County Board of Education** serves the residents of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. The school system currently operates four public schools and is the fiscal agent for the Lumpkin County Head Start Program and the Pre-Kindergarten Program. The school system coordinates with Lumpkin County in the use of its facilities for recreation and other public use and for other programs.

The **Lumpkin County Development Authority**, created as a local Development Authority in accordance with Georgia state law, works to attract new industry and expand existing industry in the county. Its nine members meet monthly, or in called meetings as necessary, to report on projects, plan strategy, consider inducement resolutions for new industries, and to acquire and develop industrial buildings, industrial sites and industrial parks.

The **City of Dahlonega** and the **Lumpkin County Water Authority** provides water services to their respective water service area in Lumpkin County as agreed upon in the Lumpkin County Service Delivery Strategy.

Adjacent local governments include **Dawson County** and **Hall County** to the south, **Union County** to the north, **Fannin County** to the west and **White County** to the east.

Coordination with these local governments is essential to the planning, development and service delivery process. Lumpkin County is a member of the **Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center (GMRDC)**, which coordinates local and regional planning and development activities for all of the above counties with the exception of Fannin and those in North Carolina. Fannin County is a member of the **North Georgia Regional Development Center (NGRDC)**. The two RDCs coordinate the review process for all developments that are at such a large scale they may have impacts beyond their jurisdictional boundaries (regional in nature) and may cause inter-jurisdictional conflicts. This review, titled **Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review** notifies all surrounding local governments and potential impacted agencies of the proposed development and allows them an opportunity to review the project (development) and provide comments about its potential impact on them.

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The RDC will then provide to the submitting local government comments and recommendation on the proposed project prior to the local government making a decision allowing the project to proceed or be denied.

OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The **Lumpkin County Sheriff Department** is responsible for the police protection, service and safety of Lumpkin County citizens. The department operates a patrol, investigations, jail and public and school education division as well as participating in a drug task force. The sheriff department may assist the County in the enforcement of its local regulations.

The **Clerk of Courts** is responsible for all the civil and criminal filings made in the **Lumpkin County Superior Court**. It also serves as the official recorder of real estate documents for the County maintaining records of deeds, plats, etc. The Clerk also provides the jury pool for Grand Jury and civil and criminal trials.

The **Magistrate Judge** is an elected official in Lumpkin County. The **Magistrate Court** office process various criminal and civil matters and small claims up to \$15,000. The criminal section issues warrants, hold bonds, committal, dispossessory and first appearance hearings for certain offenses. The civil section issues notices of foreclosure, garnishments and Fi-FA's. The Magistrate Judge also performs marriages.

The **Judge of the Probate Court** is an elected official. The office is the custodian of vital records that allows the issuance of certified copies of birth and death certificates. The office maintains marriage records and copies of the legal organ. **The Probate Court** is responsible for the probate and administration of estates along with guardianships of minors and incapacitated adults. The court also handles misdemeanor traffic violations for the county. The Probate Judge also performs marriages.

The **Juvenile Court** handles all cases involving delinquent, unruly, and deprived children, as well as cases involving custody, child abuse, abortion notification, and termination of parental rights, and provides probation supervision of children on probation. Juvenile court also handles all traffic cases involving children under the age of 17, regardless of the jurisdiction of the incident.

Public defenders office participates as part of the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL AND REGIONAL ENTITIES AND PROGRAMS

The **Joint Development Authority of Forsyth, Dawson, Hall and Lumpkin County** is a joint four county development authority, consisting of three members from each county, appointed by their County Commission, meets quarterly (no set meeting date) at alternating locations to plan and report on development activities in each county.

The **Dalton-Dalton Chamber of Commerce** operates the Welcome Center and is active in tourism development of the Dalton and Lumpkin County area. Volunteers and paid staff, including an Executive Director, serve the mountain tourists and visitors to the community. The Chamber has about 450 members and is governed by a volunteer President and a Board of Directors representing businesses in the community.

The **Enotah Judicial Circuit Court** serves four counties that include Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White. There is a joint agreement among the counties to fund the court services along with state funding. It is determined that the service is meeting current needs and is adequate to serve the county over the planning horizon.

The **Appalachian Drug Task Force**, a joint law enforcement effort by Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White Counties, provides the resources necessary to facilitate the investigation, arrest, prosecution and conviction of drug and violent offenders who illicit activity impacts within the collective jurisdiction.

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The **Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center** provides land planning, transportation planning, historic preservation planning, water resource and water quality planning, economic development assistance, and grant assistance to the county and city. GMRDC has a regional plan and coordinates the review of local plans and developments of regional impact. The **Georgia Mountains Regional Economic Development Corporation** provides economic development and loan assistance to the city and county.

Electric power is distributed in Lumpkin County by the **Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation, Habersham EMC, Jackson EMC, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Sawnee EMC and Georgia Power.**

STATE AGENCIES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** provides a great deal of assistance to the county and city through its numerous programs. These programs include assistance in the areas of planning, housing, quality growth, downtown development and community development. Lumpkin County is also a member of the Region 2 Regional Advisory Council.

The **Georgia Department of Transportation** operates a maintenance and engineering post for localized road maintenance and improvements. The department also does the local transportation planning for Lumpkin County out of the District 1 Office located in Gainesville, Georgia.

The **Georgia Forestry Commission** operates a forestry county unit office in Dahlonega. The office provides a county ranger who provides leadership, service and education in protection, management, and wise use of local forest resources.

The **Georgia Department of Natural Resources** manages several recreation facilities within Lumpkin County, including other important historic and archeological resources. The Environmental Protection Division of DNR regulates permits for drinking water, waste water, stormwater management.

Agricultural extension services are provided county-wide by the **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service**. This program is funded jointly by Lumpkin County and the State of Georgia.

The **Georgia Department of Human Resources** provides health services and mental health services through the Lumpkin County Health Department and the Lumpkin County Department of Mental Health. These two departments are funded by local, state and federal funds and grants.

The **Georgia Department of Family and Children Services** provides social and protective service assistance to needy families and children within the County. These services are funded by county, state and federal funds and grants.

FEDERAL AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

The **United States Forest Service** manages nearly 57,000 acres of land in Lumpkin County. The forest service leases land to Lumpkin County for recreation purposes. Occasionally the Forest Service will conduct land swaps on an as need basis with local governments and private individuals to consolidate their property and management of the forest. Because of all the Forest Service land located in Lumpkin County, the federal government provides a token reimbursement to the county for the loss taxable lands.

The **U. S. Army Corps of Engineers** is a federal agency that owns and manages Lake Lanier and Lake Lanier Dam. The Lake Lanier Reservoir lies partially in Lumpkin County on the south/southeastern edge of the county. The Lake Lanier Reservoir serves a number of purposes other than recreation, including flood control and power generation. Lumpkin County has lease agreement with Corp for the development and management of recreation facilities on the reservoir.

The **Appalachian Regional Commission** is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. The ARC program is administered at the state level by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred projects throughout the 13 Appalachian states in support of economic and human development. These efforts seek to augment ARC's highway development program and bring more of Appalachia's people into America's economic mainstream. The projects directly address ARC's five goal areas: education and workforce training, physical infrastructure, civic capacity and leadership, business development, and health care. In helping Appalachian states meet community needs in these five goal areas, ARC has supported a variety of innovative projects and initiatives. Each year throughout the Region ARC programs create thousands of new jobs, increase school readiness, improve local water and sewer systems, expand access to health care, assist local communities with strategic planning, and provide technical, managerial, and marketing assistance to emerging new businesses.

Lumpkin County is one of 35 counties in North Georgia eligible for assistance and programs activities from ARC. It is imperative that goals, policies and objectives at the local level be consistent and applicable to the mission goals of the ARC. The goals, policies and objectives found in each element of this plan are all relevant to ARC policies.

The **U.S.D.A Natural Resource and Conservation Service** provides technical assistance on natural resources issues and assist individuals, groups, and communities within the county to implement soil and water conservation practices to protect the privately owned land in Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. This program is jointly funded by county and federal funds.

The **Tennessee Valley Authority** is a federal agency providing electrical power services to the Tennessee Valley Region.

The **U.S. Army** operates an army ranger training facilities. Camp Merrill, in the northern part of Lumpkin County.

SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

In accordance with the Service Delivery Act (HB 489), the Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) was developed, submitted and approved in 1999. The document was recently update in 2004. This state law requires that local governments and related entities cooperate with the delivery of community services. The SDS identifies local community services, assigns service areas and responsibilities (including funding), and provides a methodology for the delivery of community services that include a variety of implementation tools such as ordinances and contracts.

In accordance with the SDS law, a local government's existing Strategy must be updated concurrent with the local government's comprehensive plan. To ensure consistency between the comprehensive plan and SDS the services to be provided by the local governments, as identified in the comprehensive plan cannot exceed those identified in the SDS. And, there must be consistency between the comprehensive plan and the SDS.

The current SDS includes the following services:

- Animal Control
- Chamber of Commerce
- Clean and Beautiful
- Clerk of Court
- Coroner
- E-911
- Economic Development
- Elections
- Emergency Management
- EMS
- Enotah Judicial Court
- Equalization Board
- Extension Service
- Fire Protection
- Historic Preservation/Museum
- Hospital
- Humane Society
- Indigent Defense
- Jail, Jury
- Juvenile Court
- Land Use Planning
- Law Enforcement
- Library
- Magistrate Court
- Mental Health
- Municipal Airport
- Parks and Recreation
- Probate Court
- Public Health
- Road Maintenance/Construction
- Senior Services
- Social Services
- Soil Conservation
- Solid Waste Management
- Superior Court
- Tax Assessment
- Tax Collection

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- Waste Water Treatment
- Water Service.

All of these services are presented and discussed in other elements (Community Facilities and Services, Natural Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Transportation) within the comprehensive plan.

The SDA also includes an agreement between Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega to implement a process for resolving land use disputes over annexations. Under the agreement between the City and the County prior notification of annexation activities will be given to the County by the City providing full information on the proposed land use or zoning classification and area to be annexed. The county will respond to the City within 15 working days of its agreement or objection to the proposal. In the event of disagreement between the City and County, the dispute will go through the agreed upon mediation process.

To ensure compatible and non-conflicting land use Lumpkin County and Dahlonega provides land and water planning through ordinances for the following: Subdivision Regulations, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Floodplain Regulation, and through a resolution approving and adopting a comprehensive plans for the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. Expansion of water and sewer services and land use modifications must comply with these resolutions, ordinances, and the comprehensive plan.

There are additional departments or services identified in the SDS not addressed in this element, but are departments or units of local government, and are solely funded out of the county or city budget, are addressed and assessed in the community facilities element of this plan.

Since the document was recently update, there are no immediate change needed in the Lumpkin County SDS.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The City of Dahlonega owns a public water-supply intake located on Yahoola Creek, inside of Dahlonega. Upstream of Dahlonega's intake, Yahoola Creek is approximately 7 miles long, and the watershed includes about 35 square miles, part of which is land owned and managed by the United States Forest Service. The entire Yahoola Creek watershed in Lumpkin County is considered a water-supply watershed. Dahlonega is preparing to adopt a water supply watershed protection plan that meets recommended state protection standards for small water supply watershed, which will protect the drinking water intake for Dahlonega. Lumpkin County has not adopted a water supply watershed protection ordinance, but must do so sometime in the future.

Recently, a Source Water Assessment and Protection Plan (SWAP) was conducted by Georgia Mountains RDC for Georgia DNR, EPD for the City of Dahlonega drinking water intake on the Yahoola Creek. This assessment will survey land uses found within the watershed and will rate each use on their potential threat to the intake based on use and location within the watershed. The plan will help Lumpkin County and Dahlonega to better understand land use activities within the watershed and help them develop policies and measures to protect the drinking water source.

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ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

- The current methodology for resolving land disputes within the county and for coordinating planning activities, via regional hearings for local planning and communication large scale developments, DRI reviews, works well for Lumpkin County and Dahlonega.
- The Lumpkin County level of need with the Appalachian Regional Commission is skewed by the higher income retirement population that is locating to the area. This is a population that does not work and does not contribute directly into the community. Looking below the surface there are several low and moderate income individual and families who are in need of training and jobs.
- A better methodology needs to be developed that will help the federal government understand the enormous loss in tax base in Lumpkin County and increase their annual reimbursement to a fair value.
- Forecasted population and areas of future development for the City and County, including department, to determined future levels of service should be coordinated with the water authorities and department for permitting purposes and fire protection purposes, and with the Lumpkin County Board of Education in their Five –Year Facilities Planning as required by the State BOE.
- Currently the Lumpkin County Service Delivery Strategy for coordinating local government services and related program is functioning adequately. As the City or County or both governments move forward with land development regulations the strategy will need to be amended. It is not anticipated that the other services identified within the SDS will need to be amend during next ten years.

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ELEMENT	TYPE OF STATEMENT PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION	LUMPKI N COUNTY	DAHLONEGA
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Resolve all land and services conflicts as prescribed in the Service Delivery Strategy.	X	X
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal/Policy	Study and encourage improvements in federal government policy for local government reimbursement for loss of local property tax base.	X	
Intergovt. Coordination	Policy	Encourage all planning, development and growth within the county to be coordinated, and opportunity for county departments and agencies to be afforded comments and input on growth should occur.	X	X
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Update the Service Delivery Strategy as needed and as growth occurs. Ensure that the SDA is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.	X	X
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Revise and update existing programs and ordinances that will further protect the public water supply.	X	X

Insert HB489 Sewer Map

Insert HB489 Water Map